

## OPINION

Is summer school just a money machine?

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# The Los Angeles Valley



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VOLUME 52, ISSUE 11

SERVING VALLEY COLLEGE FOR 50 YEARS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1999

## CAMPUS SCENE

### HOLIDAYS

- Labor Day - Sep. 6
- Admissions Day - Sep. 7

### DEADLINES

- To process add permits: Sep. 3
- To drop a class without a W: Sep. 10

### UNIVERSITY REPS

•By appointment only  
Where: Career/ Transfer Center in Administration Room 126 or by calling (818) 947-2646.

#### Sep. 9

- School of Oriental Medicine: 10:00am - 1:00pm

#### Sep. 13

- Cal State Northridge
- Cal State Dominguez Hills: 10:00am - 1:00pm

#### Sep. 14

- Mount Saint Marys College: 10:00am - 12:30pm

#### Sep. 16

- Univ Cal San Diego: 9:00am - 11:00am and 2:00pm - 3:00pm

## FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

#### Sep. 8

- How to apply for financial aid

Cafeteria Conference Room  
12:30pm - 2:00pm

Sign up in advance at Information counter (Administrative Lobby) or Student Assistance Center (Cafeteria room 101B) or Financial Aid Office (Bungalow 14)

For more information call (818) 947-2487

## WELCOME WEEK

Aug. 30 - Sep. 3  
Monarch Square  
11:00am - 1:00pm and 5:00pm - 7:00 pm

#### Purpose:

Increase student participation in school activities as well as raise awareness of all the services and organizations available to LAVC ASU members

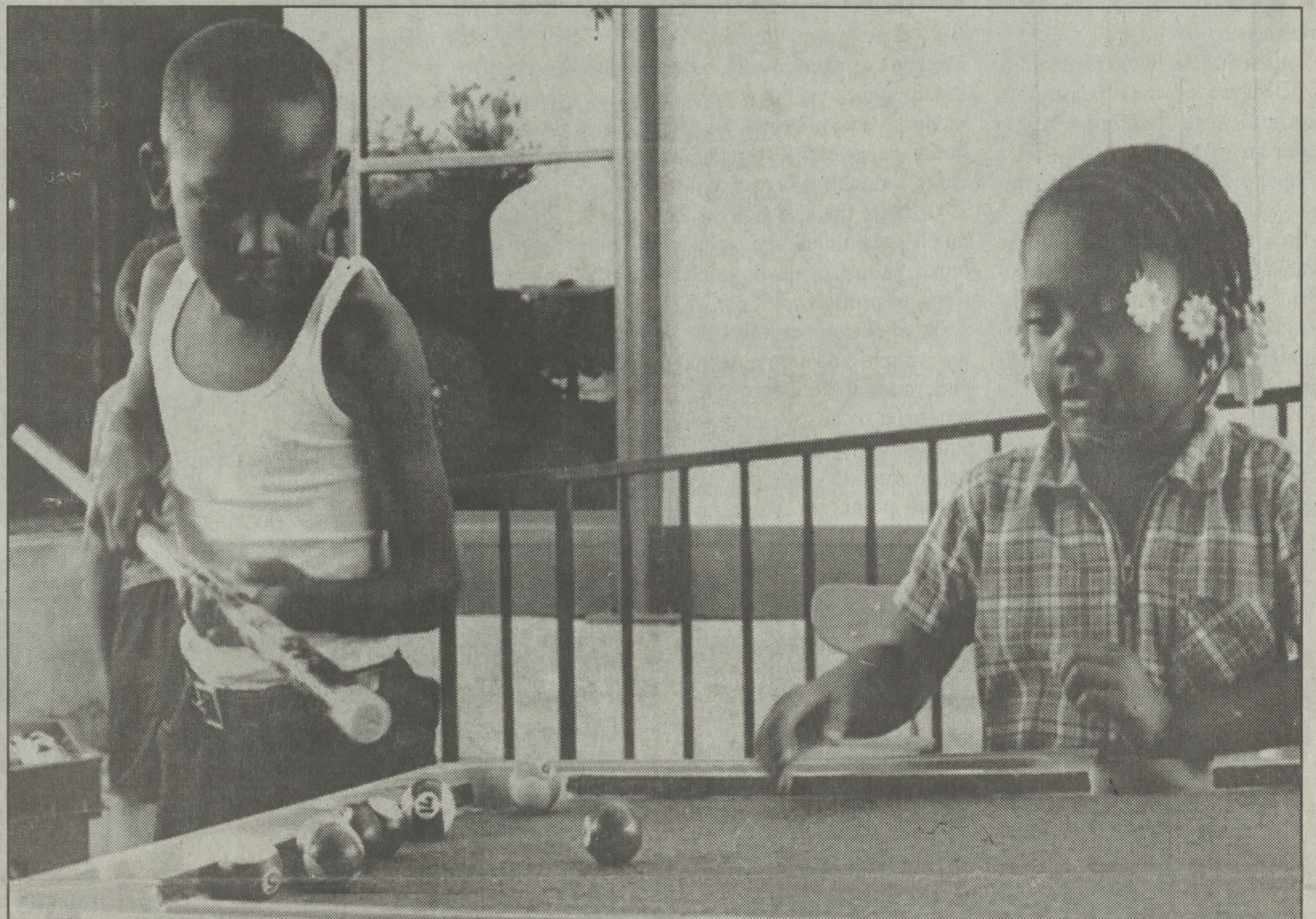
## Grant to finance new classroom for kids center

By KARI STROUTH  
STAR REPORTER

The Campus Child Development Center received a \$170,000 funding grant which will be used to expand their facilities. The grant allows the center to have one new classroom in the form of a pre-manufactured facility.

The center is licensed to accommodate 60 preschool children aged three to five years old at any one time. With full and part time slots available, there are approximately 80 pre-schoolers and up to 100 school age kids enrolled each week said director Laurence Merkle.

The new facility was originally intended to expand the program allowing them to take two and three year olds said Merkle. With about 100 preschool and school age children on the waiting list, it is yet to be determined if it will be able to accommodate the younger kids. An additional amount of about \$50,000 is also expected to upgrade the electrical and sewer systems, Merkle said.



Tyeshawn, age 6, and Moneah, age 5 play pool at the Campus Child Development Center. Last names have been withheld

Cathy Koebel/Valley Star

## Faculty give mixed reviews for campus voice-mail

By JIM CARROZO  
STAR REPORTER

A recent survey shows that Valley College teachers and counselors have mixed feelings about campus voice-mail.

"I'm very happy to have the new phone system on this campus," said counselor Michael Gold. "My one complaint is that it's a little slow to retrieve messages."

The response was the result of a phone-survey conducted last Thursday and Friday by the Valley Star.

Two hundred and eight calls were made of which eight were "no answers," 13 gave no name, and 10 were full boxes, indicating that the maximum amount of messages were recorded and were either not picked up or not erased. Only six of the 200 cross referenced information relevant to students such as e-mail addresses, beeper numbers or office hours.

All were asked to respond by calling the

Valley Star, and of those contacted, 50 called back, 18 of whom responded within 24 hours.

The results show a high percentage of non-response as well as a significant amount of negative and mixed reactions by those who did call.

Of the 50 calls, 21 were satisfied with the system, 12 were dissatisfied and 17 had mixed feelings.

Mary Lopez of Child Development said, "It's the best thing to happen for the teachers in the 23 years I've been here."

"It's the best thing we ever did," said Athletic Director, Chuck Fererro. "We moved into the current century. I couldn't survive without voice-mail because I'm an athletic director with many sports and

no secretary. We live on the voice-mail."

Among the critics was physical education teacher, Jay Breckell who said, "The phone system stinks. It doesn't have the versatility that the old system had."

Also critical of the system was Henry Klein, Art department chair who said, "For most of us, in the absence of having secretarial support, it's an additional burden to answer all of those questions. I have 13 messages since I left campus on Thursday, and nine e-mails."

Typical of the mixed reactions was that of William Lavole of Engineering who felt it was good and bad. "I have mixed feelings. If you erase a message you can't retrieve it, it's like toast. Lavole went on to say, "I'd also like it to ring more than

two or three times before the voice-mail answers. Once it does you can't pick it up and stop it so you can talk."

On the humorous side was one teacher's comment. "It's better than we had before. Now all we need is for the voice-mail system to air condition the classrooms."

### Survey Results

There were 50 responses out of 200 calls made

Of those who responded

- ◆Satisfied - 42 percent
- ◆Disatisfied - 24 percent
- ◆Mixed feelings - 34 percent

Of the 200 calls made

- ◆No name given- 6.5 percent
- ◆Boxes full - 5 percent
- ◆No cross-references - 3 percent

## Media Arts Telethon on its way

By MARTHA PRIMERA  
STAR REPORTER

An anonymous donor has offered a challenge grant to Valley College, which will match dollar for dollar what the College can raise in the way of donations up to \$500,000. This challenge came at the beginning of 1998 and is finally becoming a reality.

The telethon will air on Sunday, October 24, 1999 on TCI Cable channel one and 97, and on TIME WARNER Cable channel 29 and 37 from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Student Chair Jana Przebeida, and faculty advisors Betty Ballew and Gail Nastasia are seeking volunteers, as are the entertainment, refreshment, and food committees.

"This will be a great experience and no experience is necessary just the will to work" said Marjorie Hall.

Donations such as tickets, gifts,

coupons, or other giveaways would be greatly appreciated.

The new academy will serve as a state-of-the-art training center for the future work force in the burgeoning entertainment industry of Greater Los Angeles. It will house digital video cameras, nonlinear editing systems, graphic projectors, and video conferencing. Students will be able to take an idea and see it through development, pre-production, production, post-production, and distribution a training-ground, preparing students for the real world of industry.

An advisory committee comprised of top industry professionals including entertainer Steve Allen and Disney Channel Vice President, Michail Healy stand ready to lend their support to help Valley make this dream a reality. For more information call Betty Ballew at (818)9472798.

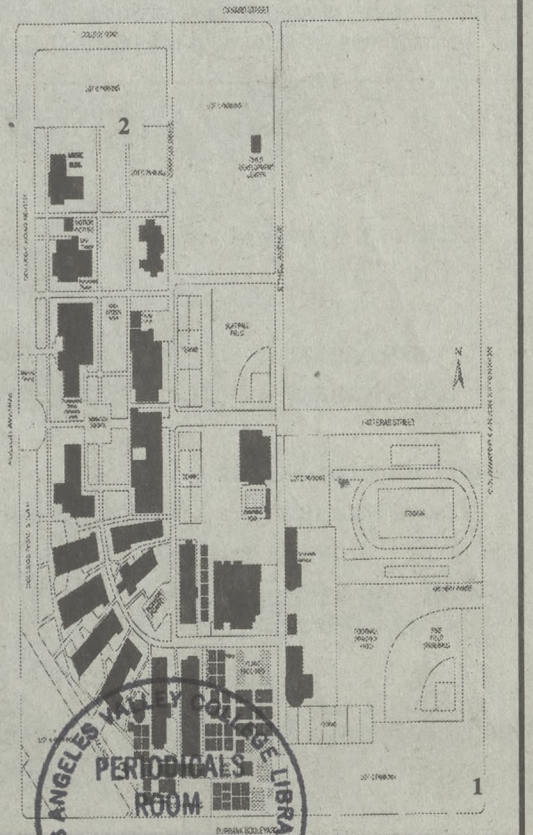
## Crime watch

- 1) Aug. 25 - Burglary of car speakers at Ethel and Burbank Blvd.
- 2) Aug. 25 - Bike theft at the Music Building
- 3) Aug. 26 - Burglary of car speakers in Lot A

## Safety tip:

Don't leave items showing in your vehicle.

#80 from any campus payphone is a direct line to the campus police.







Thursday, September 2, 1999

Valley Star

## Editorial...

# Summer school A mixed blessing

Valley College offers two overlapping six-week summer school sessions.

It's very popular with students, offering full credit for shortened courses; and very profitable for the school, creating a market that is potentially worth twice as much revenue.

What suffers is the content.

Because of time constraints, certain work regularly taught over an 18 week period is often exempted in order to fit into this six-week format.

In some non-academic subjects this may be workable but in subjects such as Math, Science or English the prospect for adequately absorbing the material grows dimmer.

How do you successfully compress five hours a week of say, Calculus with Analytic Geometry, usually taught over a four and one half month semes-

ter, into a month and a half, even with 12 hours and 40 minutes, before breaks, each week? Do the math. The unsettling answer is, "you don't"

It also muddies the concept that for each one hour spent in class, two should be spent studying. By that measurement the Calculus student would be facing 26 additional hours per week in home study, compared to 10 hours per week in regular sessions, a doubtful scenario.

It begs the questions, "How much goes unlearned, and how much is lost or never gained in terms of proficiency?"

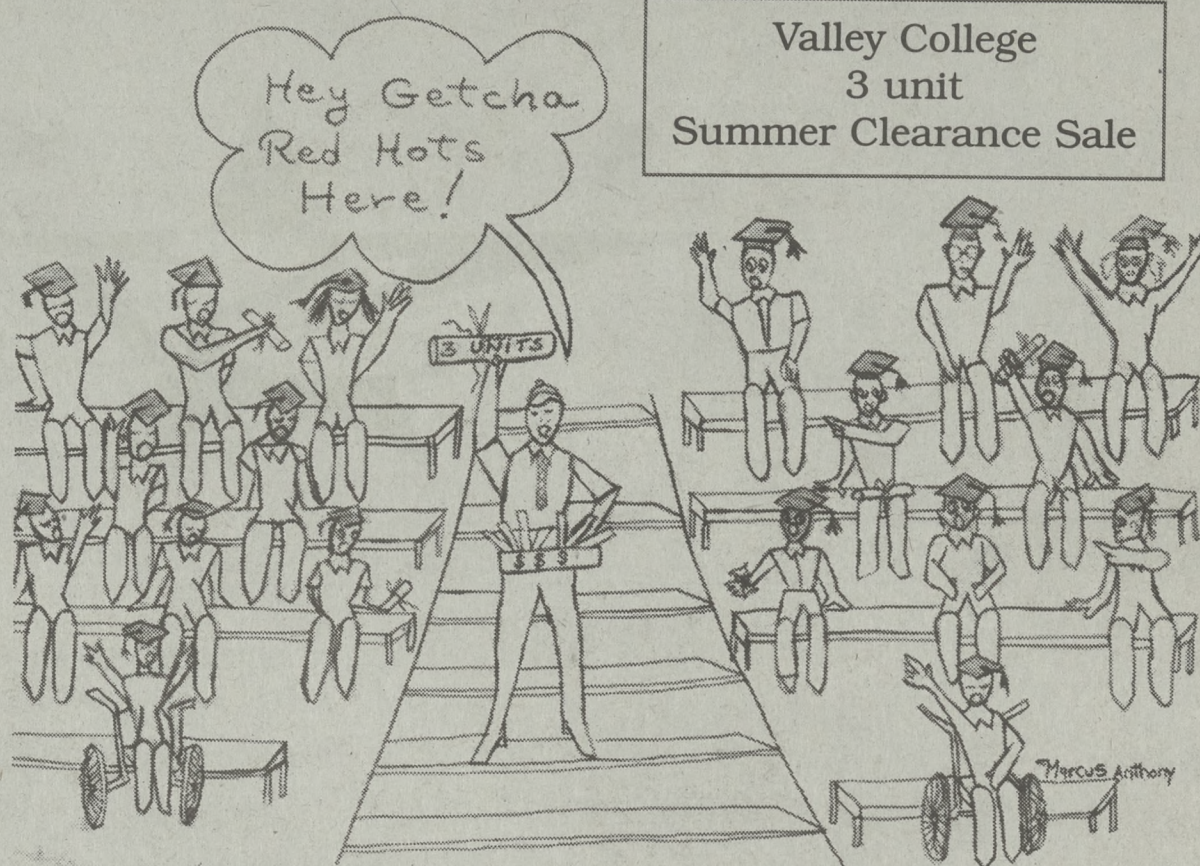
Six week courses lower the bar too much and may seriously undermine the college's mission statement to be "the educational and cultural focal point for the San Fernando Valley." If that "focal point" is showing the community that they can take a

really short course and get full credit by going to summer school then perhaps it's time to re-adjust the focus.

Unfortunately college is too often seen as an obstacle course that one must run and many students have a "mission statement" of their own, "To dodge rather than absorb."

In societies dedicated to learning, as in Japan, longer courses are preferred but in American society we always try to get the most for the least. We applaud these educational shortcuts as academic bargains but in the long run are we being short-changed?

Promoting two summer sessions is purely in the interest of making money and not in making scholars. They are one part of the sad reason the United States is globally ranked so low on the educational curve.



## Are Raves safe?



"It's a part of growing up and you hope you don't OD. You either go and get wasted or you don't go at all."

John Pena  
Van Nuys



"I know a lot of people who go to raves and it's all about drugs. It's really bad; really a downward fall."

Joelle Chamaa  
Sherman Oaks



"They are pretty cool but they're not safe. They promote drug abuse and they can be dangerous. I went to one that was broken up by the cops."

Zeeshawn Shameem  
Arleta



"Just like anything else there's a certain responsibility you have to take. I always have a designated driver. There's nothing wrong with the activity itself."

Anthony Popovic  
North Hollywood

## Letters to the editor

### Textbook tax out of step with modern needs

■ One of the best kept secrets in California is the fact that Sacramento taxes school text books. That's right, every college student in California pays an 8 1/4 % state sales tax when purchasing a required text!

The Board of Education in every K-12 school district is also saddled with this onerous 8 1/4 % tax. In contrast, there is no sales tax on admission tickets to professional sporting events.

Perhaps there was once a vital need to tax children's educational textbooks, but the state has a surplus in its present budget and if sporting events enjoy this tax-free privilege would any state legislature publicly defend this outrageous condition?

Why doesn't the ASU in conjunction with other colleges expose this shameful tax?

Sincerely,

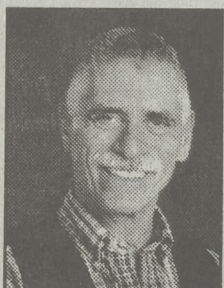
Lou Barak  
Instructor, Office Administration

### For Your Information

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. The College newspaper is published as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. The editorial and advertising materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student newspaper staff. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Accordingly, materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.

### The Senior Freshman

## The Bruins - Men behaving badly



By JIM CARROZO  
STAR REPORTER

abilities, then the UCLA jocks and former jocks who were recently arrested for illegally acquiring handicapped permits would be first in line.

Most of us move on when we spot handicapped parking spaces. Not because it's the law but because it's a societal value that we respect. When some jerk without a sticker grabs a handicapped spot it may irritate us but generally we ignore it.

However when it was discovered that these 14 perfectly healthy athletes allegedly listed bogus injuries, surgeries and allergies to get permits from the DMV, submitting signatures, addresses and even phony medical license numbers of nonexist-

tent physicians, it ticked folks off and rightly so.

These privileged elite, lucky enough to go to a university that most young men and women only dream of attending, have hammered one more nail into the coffin of fair play.

This is what it's come to after many years of colleges and universities pampering athletes no

matter how pea-brained, as long as they can play. Most of them are as lacking in the capacity to feel shame as they are in scholastic ability.

They are so insensitive to the needs of the disabled that they have no problem cheating them just so they don't have to walk so far to the gym.

Then after years of getting away with it, (apparently some of these permits were passed down like a trophy from graduating seniors), they finally got caught.

They underlined their guilt with a "no contest" plea and nine of them plea-bargained their way to sentences of community service, probation and \$1485.00 fines. A mere slap on the wrist.

Less valuable brats would have gotten the 6 month jail term that comes with the offense.

Oh we've been told they're sorry and by none other than the

legendary Rafer Johnson who was himself implicated in the scandal.

"These athletes made a mistake," Johnson said

outside the courthouse after the sentencing, "and every one of them have told me that, and have said that to everyone within hearing distance of them."

Excuse me? Is that supposed to be an apology? That sounds like they admitted making a mistake, period. And if they are sorry, just when did this penitence kick in?

Were they suddenly touched with guilt after seeing some student on crutches struggling along behind them trying to get to class on time after having to park a half a mile away from the handicapped zone?

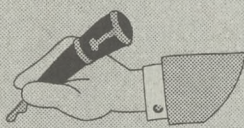
No wonder special education advocacy groups are outraged. They are waiting now to see how the remaining five, who have been granted a continuance until September 14, are dealt with.

They should have the book thrown at them but they won't. I mean after all we don't want to upset their game or in the case of the former players, sully the memory of their glory days.

What a joke! And speaking of handicaps, the Bruins need one on the playing field more than in the parking lot.

The whole affair is a sad commentary on the abuse of privilege by people who are supposed to represent the ideals of good sportsmanship. I'd have kicked them off the team. What do you say? My e-mail address is SrFresh@aol.com.

## We value your opinion



The Valley Star would love to receive and, if possible, publish your letters. We reserve the right to condense letters for space considerations. Letters are limited to 250 words and are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. They must be signed and include the student's ID number. Letters may be left at the Valley Star in BJ 114 by Friday morning for the following Thursday. They can also be placed in any of our mailboxes attached to three of our yellow news stands, or e-mail to VSTAR@ladccd.cc.ca.us.

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## CAMPUS CALENDAR

### MUSIC DEPARTMENT CAMPUS CONCERT SERIES

-Thursday, Sept. 16-

Liuba Sorochkina, piano

Music Recital Hall

11:00 am

-Thursday, Sept. 16-

Elin Carlson, soprano

Ralph Wells, baritone

Music Recital Hall

11:00

-Friday, Sept. 24-

Judicael Perroy,

classical guitar

Music Recital Hall

8:00 pm

\$6.00 general admission

\$5.00 students & seniors

### THEATER ARTS PLAY PRODUCTIONS

Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2, 7, 8, & 9

Five Women Wearing the  
Same Dress

Directed by Pete Parkin

Little Theater

## Cast set for "The Taming of the Shrew"

By JAVIER MORELOS  
Star Reporter

Where have all the thespians gone? This question was answered early last week as many Valley students brushed off their Elizabethan outfits (every thespian has at least one.) and tried their best at being shrewish. Auditions were held on August 26 and 27 for the William Shakespeare comedy masterpiece "The Taming of the Shrew".

Although the play will not premier until November, the general population rarely sees the blood, sweat and tears that are put into a theatrical production, especially a Shakespearean one.

When asked, Katherine Milton, Theater Arts instructor and director of the play, explained the process of putting on a theatrical production. "The director must have a reason that excites him or her to do the play."

Milton added that the plays idea must be brought before an audience and then a cast of people who can convey the idea to the audience is selected through a series of auditions. Those who the director feels can best play the parts are then chosen.

After a cast is set, the daily ritual of rehearsal begins. The cast and crew practice until the play's

opening.

The "Taming" cast consists of Sheila Guerrero as Katherine, Katherine La Prad as Bianca, Kevin Peckham as Petruchio, Austin Kemie as Hortensio, Aubrey West as Grumio, Marcus Anthony Linarez as Gremio, Charles Bell as Lucentio, and Johnathan Daverman as Tranio.

"The Taming of the Shrew" takes place in the Italian city of Padua and centers around the story of Bianca, a beautiful girl with many suitors and her ill-tempered sister, Katherine.

While Bianca is Padua's most desired woman, her father will not allow her to marry until Katherine has been married off.

This classic tale has seen many incarnations including the Cole Porter musical comedy "Kiss me, Kate!" and most recently, the film "10 Things I Hate About You".

While "10 Things" was a pleasant film, nothing beats the classic original, live on stage, and performed by individuals who enjoy bringing to life the colorful characters of the world of Shakespeare.

Valley's production of "The Taming of the Shrew" will be performed in the Horeshoe Theatre on 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20. All shows begin at 8 pm.

## "The Muse" leaves audiences unamused

By JAVIER MORELOS  
Star Reporter

When a writer has a mental block and needs to unleash creative power, he or she may go through a creative process to flesh out ideas. Or, all one may need to do is hire a muse as Albert Brooks did in the new

USA Films release, "The Muse."

"The Muse" stars Albert

Brooks as Hollywood screenwriter Steven Phillips whose talent is fading fast. After being told that he has lost his edge, Phillips, a one time Oscar nominee, begins to wander into a depression. He soon learns from an industry friend played by Jeff Bridges of a muse living in Hollywood.

Enter Sharon Stone, the film's savior. She plays the muse who agrees to help Steven break his slump.

Stone waltzes on screen with the grace of a Hollywood golden age actress, complete with style, attitude and pizzazz. Her talents are known to have turned bottom-of-the-food-chain-losers into brilliant creative types who have pulled box office successes from their hats.

However, Stone's talents come with a price and anyone calling on her for services must be pre-

pared to pay a hefty fee. Be it expensive jewelry or long stays at ritzy hotels, the muse's price is a high one for Hollywood types struggling to stay afloat in "the business".

Andie MacDowell's role as Laura, Steven's off kiltered wife, surprises the viewer with a rarely seen lightlycomedic side.

The film is directed by Albert Brooks and was written by Brooks and his cohort, Monica Johnson.

The Muse is a movie which only a true Albert Brooks fan can appreciate. This is also a movie that leaves many Brooks fans with looks of confusion and bewilderment.

While the film has many warm, glowing moments, never tiring of haphazardly satirizing Hollywood or filling the viewer up with film industry shenanigans, it lacks the humor usually found in Brooks films.

The Muse is playing citywide.

## Review



## Read The Valley Star

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Presentation starts promptly at 12:00 noon. To RSVP Call 1-310-302-2429

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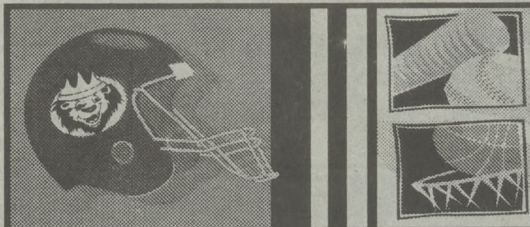
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# Sports

## To your health...

By CECI VENDRELL  
STAR REPORTER

It's the third week of the fall semester at Valley. New classes, new friends, new responsibilities and new pressures are suddenly apparent in our lives. As we settle into the new routine there are probably very few of us who aren't feeling time constraints and performance anxiety. This is both an exhilarating and stressful time for all of us.

Stress is a valid health threat that must be recognized by people of any age. It may not be readily apparent like a physical ailment such as the flu or an injury but it is probably more harmful to the body in the long run.

According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, two thirds of all office visits to family doctors are prompted by stress-related symptoms.

There are, of course, many types of events and situations that cause stress - a physical threat, relationship problems, financial worries, family responsibilities and health issues, to name a few. Let's start with the basic external situation of bodily threat, one that triggers the body's "fight or flight" response.

You are about to step into a crosswalk when a car suddenly zooms by out of nowhere. You instinctively jump back onto the sidewalk with your heart pounding.

What you don't know is that your pancreas is working overtime as your blood sugar levels shoot up and that your blood pressure has risen. Adrenaline is surging through your entire system because your body perceived, correctly, that it was in a life-threatening situation. Okay, that's survival and that's good. We like to survive.

Now, let's say you're trying to park in Lot A and you're already late for class. There are no spaces, it's hot and you are getting increasingly anxious. Just as you see a parking spot someone cuts in and takes it. You're furious and honk, or worse, but eventually find a parking place.

What has happened to your body as you've become excited, anxious and angry? It reacts again as if there is a threat to your safety - fight or flight.

"Stress is an abnormal reaction to a normal condition," says Julian Goldstein, owner of the Bikram Yoga College in Encino. Goldstein believes that stress is the biggest cause of disease because people aren't aware of having it. The mind forgets the stressful incident and moves on but the body remembers.

Adrenaline prepares the body for action by diverting resources to the muscles from other areas that carry out body maintenance. So, if excess adrenaline due to stress is maintained over a long period of time the body may show deterioration in the following ways: increased illnesses such as colds, asthma, headaches and skin eruptions.

There are solutions to counteract the hidden effects of stress. We can manage stress and reduce its effects through identification, anticipation and exercise.

Simple awareness can be the first

## Valley cheer squad advances to Nationals

Cheerleaders to compete in Florida for 2000 National Championship Title

By KIM TUCHMAN  
STAR REPORTER

After qualifying at summer camp, the Valley cheerleaders are once again headed to Daytona, Florida, to compete in the National Championships in the year 2000.

Last year, they went to nationals and ranked 10th in the nation. They qualified by sending in a video tape to the National Cheerleading Association, NCA, and placed 7th for their skills in qualifiers.

This year the squad qualified at the collegiate summer camp held at U.C.L.A. along with other cheerleaders from different areas. This allows the Valley team to compete during

the week of April 5th through April 9th, 2000 for the national championship title.

The preliminaries for nationals will be held on April 6th at

the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach, and on April 7th at the Daytona Beach Bandshell for all competitions. This will be a televised event shown on CBS.

**"They are the largest and most talented squad I've ever had in five years."**

Edward Santos  
Head coach

Edward Santos, head coach for the Valley team, says that before going to Daytona, the cheerleaders will compete in their first local competition; a spirit kickoff at Raging Waters in San Dimas on October 24th, 1999.

The next two big competitions, which are not televised, will be in February, 2000, with the United Spirit Association, USA, in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Cheerleaders of America, COA, in Irvine, California.

Valley has a total of 42 cheerleaders and dancers on their squad. There are five captains for the squad. They are Jeanette Griego, Heidi Sylvester, Gina Espinosa, Salvador Davila, and Abraham Del Cid.

The squad practices from two to three times a week on campus near the football field

from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cheerleaders are required to run one mile before practice so everyone usually arrives at 5:30 p.m.

Practices are not open to the public. "We need to keep our cheerleaders focused, so we keep our sessions closed," says Edward Santos.

Edward Santos, who has been the head of the cheerleaders for the past five years consecutively, says of his cheerleaders, "They are the largest and most talented squad I've ever had in five years. They surprise the heck out of me."

The intention among all the cheerleaders is unanimous. They want to be number one. "That's where I want to be, or at least in the top five," says Salvador Davila.

Valley freshman and first-year cheerleader, Gina Espinosa, says, "I'm very excited! I can't wait to go. Our goal is to take first place, but if we rank top five, that would be good, too."

Cheerleaders primarily pay their own way to the nationals. They are required to pay for their uniforms and travel expenses. Any other monies needed are then raised by donations or fundraisers.

If you would like to contribute donations or help with fundraisers, you can contact Edward Santos at 818/607-3798 or Eve Fleck, Cheer and Dance Advisor, at 818/947-2601



Cathy Koebel/Valley Star

A half extension maneuver being practiced by the cheer and dance team members.



Cathy Koebel/Valley Star

Cheer and dance team members Heidi Sylvester, Salvador Davila, Beto Rios, Michael Asencion and Jesse Perez practice a layout basket toss.

## Ferrill readies Monarchs for new season

By VICTOR CORONA  
STAR REPORTER

The green and gold begin the season at Casey Stadium in Wilmington on Sept. 11 against conference rival, L.A. Harbor.

Last season the Monarchs played the seahawks to a 25-13 victory. The game featured many big plays, with the Monarchs holding on to a close victory. The win was only one of four the team would enjoy as the green and gold finished the season with a 4-6 record.

"I can't comment on last season because I wasn't here, as for this season the players attitude is so high that they been talking bowl game," said Head Coach

Karl Ferrill.

"My plan is to be aggressive all around," Ferrill added, "by running a spread out offense, 4-4 defense that puts pressure on the Quarterback. The same aggressiveness will come from special teams."

Ferrill, begins his first season as the head coach of the green and gold. He takes over for Gary Barlow, who left the program to take a position with the San Joaquin Delta Mustang staff. Coach Ferrill's resume starts with 28 years of coaching experience, a 780 winning percentage, eight Bowl game appearances, seven Conference Championships and four Coach of the Year awards.

Transfer and incoming fresh-

**"My plan is to be aggressive all around."**

Head coach  
Carl Ferrill

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Monday, September 20  
Valley at Grossmont CC  
Roth Stadium, El Cajon  
3:00 pm

Saturday, September 25  
Valley vs. Santa Barbara CC  
Monarch Stadium  
7:00 pm

Saturday, October 2  
Valley vs. Glendale CC  
Monarch Stadium  
7:00pm

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